

TO THE MAYOR AND CORPORATION. BOROUGH OF LOSTWITIHEL.

GENTLEMEN,

I herewith present my Annual Report for the Year 1925.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The Borough of Lostwithiel, situate about six miles from the coast, lies in a valley through which runs the River Fowey this forming the eastern boundary of the town. East and west it is bounded by hills, the valley running roughly north and south.

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are commercial and agricultural and there is no occupation which in any way has an adverse influence on the public health.

Socially, I think I may say, the Borough is well provided for: in fact, from the point of view of health, it is questionable whether social activities are not overdone. I refer more particularly to entertainments which are carried on until the small hours of the morning and also to the practise of allowing young children to attend evening entertainments and by so doing exposing them to vitiated atmospheres and robbing them of the sleep which is so essential to their well-being.

Area	389 acres
Population Census 1921, 1933. estimated	1285.
Number of inhabited houses	402.
Rateable Value	£5198 13.0d
Sum represented by a penny rate	£19.18.5d

VITAL STATISTICS.

There are no institutions for the unmarried mothers.

Births :- Males, 12. Females, 12. Total 24. at appear-
ance in County for Illegitimate, 1.

Birth rate per 1000. 18.67.

Death :- Males 7. Females, 14. Total 21.

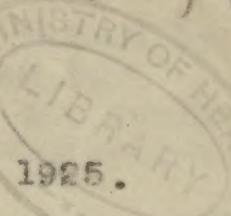
Death rate per 1000. 16.34.

The correct motor ambulance is in position and ready for use in an-
ticipated emergency. The fire-brigade is in full working order and
is available for all emergencies. The fire-station has been recently
extended and is available day and night in case of an emergency.

There are no maternity and treatment centres in the Borough.

Health Services. There are two officers, the Surveyor and the Medical Officer of Health both of whom are salaried. There are no specialised inspectors, health visitors or medical nurses employed by the Authority. The general nursing including midwifery, is done by the midwives and there are no special arrangements available for the care of infectious cases.

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causes of Death

Whooping cough.....	1
Encephalitis lethargica.....	1
Cancer.....	1
Cerebral haemorrhage.....	5
Heart disease.....	2
Bronchitis.....	1
Diarrhoea under 2 years.....	1
Nephritis, acute & chronic.....	1
Puerperal sepsis.....	1
Other defined diseases.....	2

Death of infants under 1 year..... 1

There has been no unusual or excessive mortality during the year requiring comment.

Poor Law Relief:-

The number of persons in receipt of out-door relief during the year was, Males, 4; Females, 13; Children 13, making a total of £30.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

There are no hospitals provided or subsidized by the Local Authority or by the County Council.

Cases requiring institutional treatment are sent to Hospitals in neighbouring towns, the nearest being six miles distant.

There is no institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children and there does not appear to be any necessity for such provision.

The nearest motor ambulance is at Bodmin and this, as far as I am aware, fully meets the requirements of the district. No special facilities are provided for the transport of infectious cases. A stretcher and first-aid outfit has been recently acquired by the Council. It is kept at the fire-station and is available day and night in case of an emergency.

There are no clinics and Treatment Centres in the Borough.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

There are two officers, the Sanitary Inspector and the Medical Officer of Health both of them being part-time. There are no specialised inspectors, health visitors and special nurses employed by the Authority. The general nursing including midwifery, is done by the District Nurse and there are no special arrangements available for the nursing of infectious cases.

The funds for the maintenance of the District Nurse are raised by public subscription and augmented by an annual grant from the County Nursing Association, the administration being in the hands of the Local Nursing Association Committee. No financial assistance is obtained from the Local Authority.

I wish to take this opportunity of putting on record the very able and conscientious manner in which our District Nurse carries out her duties and to state that the good work she does materially increases the standard of the public health.

The only midwife practising in the Borough is the District Nurse.

The Local Regulations in force are:-

(a) Byelaws adopted 1921.

(b) Dairies, Townsends & Milkshops Regulations adopted 1901.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Water. The supply of water is constant and sufficient and is derived from a spring situated about two miles from the town. All the houses in the Borough with the exception of a few in the outlying areas, have the water laid on, the majority directly to the houses and the rest by means of standpipes. There has been no evidence of contamination of this supply. The water supply of the houses in the outlying areas is from various springs in their vicinity and there is no reason to think that any of these are contaminated. No action has been taken during the year in respect of possible contamination of the water supply such not having been found necessary.

Rivers & streams. The river Fowey is contaminated by the town sewage. No action has been taken to check this.

Drainage and sewerage. With the exception of a few houses outside the drainage area and two within it all houses are connected with the main sewers. The closets of the two referred to as within the drainage area empty into a cesspit; steps are being taken to do away with the cesspit and to connect the closets with the sewer.

The sewage of those houses outside the drainage area is, I am informed, disposed of by burying but the confirmation of this statement is difficult. Generally the arrangements for drainage in the Borough are not altogether satisfactory.

During the rainy seasons, which are rather prolonged, the sewers are not large enough to carry off the sewage and the surface water. The outlets of the sewers, five in number, are in the river which is tidal. At high tide and with much fresh coming down there is a strong backflow into the sewers the result being that in one situation on the Moors sewage is forced through the traps and is left on the road after the water has receded. I have previously reported on this matter and trust that the Council will give it early attention.

Swavering. I am pleased to be able to report that, acting on my recommendation, the refuse cart is now fitted with a suitable cover. The refuse is collected once a week and carried to a tip about a mile from the town. I suggest that steps might be taken to prevent the deposit of refuse in Colson Park which is frequently being done by unauthorised individuals. Movable dustbins are in general use: the type of the majority is unsatisfactory owing to the fact that they are not fitted with covers.

Closet Accommodation. There has been practically no improvement under this heading since, at the request of the Council, I made a special report on the subject during 1919.

There are approximately 300 closets, 200 of which have no flushing tank. There still exists a group of four houses having only one closet between them and I submit that there is no justification for allowing such a state of affairs to continue. It may be hard on an owner to have to spend money on possible unprofitable property but it is equally hard on decent-minded tenants to have to put up with such insanitary and hardly decent arrangements.

I hope that the Council will see its way to take early action in this matter.

Sanitary Inspection. During the year the Sanitary Inspector and myself have made 18 tours of inspection, the total number of premises visited being about 120. Apart from these I have independently made numerous visits to slaughterhouses, bakeries, butchers' shops &c.

The Sanitary Inspector's Report is as follows:-

- (a) No. of independent inspections made 28
(These include, visits to slaughterhouses and G.W.R. Station, 16: visits to bakeries, 6: visits to school, 6: visits to dairies and cowsheds, 6.)
- (b) No. of notices served 9.
 - (1) Statutory 5.
 - (2) Informal 4.
- (c) Result of service of notices. Premises put in order.

The matters dealt with as the result of the above inspections include the infringement of the Eyelaw relating to the keeping of swine: the cleanliness of bakeries, cowsheds, milkshops and dairies: the renewal and cleaning of cracked and dirty lavatory pans: investigation of over-crowding: deposits of rubbish in the vicinity of dwellinghouses storing of food stuffs: G.W.R. meat vans: slaughterhouses: washing and cleanliness of fish hawkers' carts.

Schools The sanitary condition and water supply of the Council's school are in a satisfactory state. It has not been necessary to take any special action with regard to the prevention of infectious diseases.

Other Sanitary Matters. During the year the streets and Sanitary Committee has met regularly once a month and, from the sanitary point of

of view, much useful work has been done by it. There is still too much delay in carrying out by individuals of the orders of the Council. This, as I have pointed out before, increases in an unnecessary manner the work of the Sanitary staff. I wish to take this opportunity of putting on record the good work done by the Sanitary Inspector and his staff, all of whom carry out their duties in a very thorough and conscientious manner. This is evidenced by the general cleanliness of our streets among other things. The work of the Sanitary staff is much hampered by want of co-operation on the part of individuals. Owners and tenants could do much more towards keeping the surroundings of their houses and premises in a more tidy and cleanly condition. There is not sufficient advantage taken of the weekly scavenging, the result being that much rubbish is left lying about which could and should be removed.

INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

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(a) Milk Supply. As far as I am aware the supply of milk to the Borough is adequate. With regard to its wholesomeness and purity without analysis and expert examination of the herds, I am unable to give a definite opinion. The most I can say is that I have no reason to think that the quality is such as to be a menace to the health of those who consume it. I am convinced however that there is much room for improvement in the process of milking and in the way the cowsheds are kept. The importance of cleanliness of cowsheds and cleanliness of milkers is not sufficiently recognised. The only way this can be assured is by the co-operation of the surveyors and I make a strong appeal to them to assist the sanitary officials in the production of as pure a milk supply as possible. It is the infants and children who suffer from an unclean milk supply more than adults and for their sakes cleanliness should be looked upon as of the first importance.

The Milk & Dairies (Consolidation) Act 1925 and the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act 1922 are not administered in the Borough. I appeal to the Council for its support to insure the better observance of the provisions laid down in the Model Regulations relating to Dairies, Cowsheds & Milkshops.

(b) Meat.

(1) As I have mentioned under a previous heading, the inspection of meat and slaughterhouses has been carried out by the Sanitary Inspector and myself. This has not been done in such a methodical manner as I should wish but I think that under existing circumstances it has been dealt with as thoroughly as can be expected.

(2). The provisions of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924 have generally speaking, been very indifferently observed. The notifications of slaughtering have been regularly sent in by some killers but others, having once given notice of regular slaughtering have slaughtered on days other than those stated without first sending in a further notice. This is contrary to the Regulations.

As I reported to you during July the provisions made in the butchers' stores for the protection of meat against flies were very inadequate. I suggest that more vigorous steps should be taken to ensure that this part of the Regulations is better observed.

I have not observed that any of the men engaged in the carrying of carcasses are supplied with washable lead coverings: only a few of them have washable overalls. I have frequently inspected the G.W.R. meat vans and have to report that these are more often than not in a dirty condition, particularly as regards the flooring. This consists of sections of moveable trellised boards which are very difficult to keep clean. Since drawing the attention of the stationmaster to the dirty condition of the inside these have on the whole been better. These vans are supposed to arrive here in a 'clean' condition so the fault does not lie with the local station staff.

(iii) Management of slaughterhouses. There are two licensed slaughterhouses in the Borough and these, on the whole, are kept in a 'clean' condition there having been marked improvement in this direction during the last few years. But however 'clean' these slaughterhouses are kept the fact still remains that they should not be where they are.

(4) Other Foods. I have made inspections of shops where food is stored and exposed for sale and as a result would suggest that more care might be taken in the direction of covering the food both in the stores and in the shops and that also not enough cleanliness is observed in both.

It is only to be regretted that only one out of the five bakeries in the Borough is fitted with a machine mixer especially so as, in the majority of them, there is no proper provision made for the washing of hands. Generally speaking all of them might be kept cleaner than they are but there is one in particular which falls far short of modern requirements. I have on many occasions reported to the Council on the unsatisfactory condition of this bakery and as a result a slight improvement has been made.

(a) No cases of food poisoning have come to my knowledge.

(b) No action has been taken under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act. I am of opinion that it would be to the benefit of the public if the powers conferred by this Act were sometimes put into force.

During June I reported to the Council on the very dirty condition in which fish hawkers' carts were kept and I then recommended that a byelaw should be made to control hawkers' carts in general. In my opinion the need for action in this direction is urgent. As a result of my representations to the hawkers some improvement has been made.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The prevalence of notifiable diseases (other than tuberculosis) has, since 1890, been very low and none of the initial cases were followed by anything approaching an epidemic.

During last year there was one case of enteric fever: 1903, one case of erysipelas: 1903, nil and 1904 three cases of scarlet fever. A good supply of diphtheria anti-toxin is always available for the use of medical practitioners in the Borough.

There are no special arrangements made for the examination of pathological and bacteriological specimens. This is done at recognised laboratories at the discretion of the practitioner in charge of the case. In no cases the cost is met by the Local or County Authorities.

There are no local arrangements for isolation or disinfection. No use has been made of the Seix and Lick tests in diphtheria and scarlet fever or of the immunization methods against these diseases no occasions having arisen for doing so.

No primary vaccinations or revaccinations have been performed under the Public Health (small-pox Prevention) Regulations, 1817.

Starting during the latter part of June there was a severe epidemic of whooping-cough which lasted to the end of September. Following this there was a moderate epidemic of chicken-pox.

During the year I have received one intimation from the Council School this being in reference to the whooping-cough epidemic.

There has been no mortality from influenza.

There are no facilities available for the 'cleaning and disinfection of verminous persons and their belongings. The disinfection of premises and articles which have been exposed to infection is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector by means of Sulphur 'andles.

Of the notifiable diseases (other than tuberculosis) there was one case of Encephalitis Lethargica with one death.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Notifications of new cases were as follows:-

Age periods	M	F	Deaths
20	1	-	-
25	1	2	-
35	-	1	-
45	1	-	-
Totals	3	3	0

These are all pulmonary: no non-pulmonary cases were notified.

It has not been found necessary to take any action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1908.

No action has been taken under section 78 Public Health Act 1908.

HOUSING.

(1) General Housing Conditions. The problem of the better housing of the working-class is still a very urgent one and as each year goes by the urgency increases. This is not due to any increase of population but rather to the fact that families are growing up and that accommodation which was barely sufficient for a family of babies and children becomes insufficient when the reach their teens.

There is more over-crowding in the borough now than there has been for some years past and this fact alone should be sufficient evidence of the immediate necessity for building.

Recently a family of nine has occupied a cottage with only two bedrooms. I submit that it should not have been possible for such a cottage to have been let to such a family.

It is my duty to bring such cases of over-crowding to your notice in a formal manner but as such action, under existing circumstances, is both futile and a waste of time I have omitted to do so and only mention it now in order to stress the point that the only remedy for over-crowding is to build more houses of a suitable type. I commend this matter to the Council's serious consideration.

Since drafting the above I am pleased to be able to state that the Council has formed a Committee for the purpose of considering a Municipal Housing Scheme.

(II) Over-crowding.

- (1) Although over-crowding is more prevalent than it has been for some years past it does not exist to any great extent.
- (2) The causes of over-crowding are want of houses of a suitable type and that owners let their houses to tenants without any regard to the number in family.
- (3) The only measure taken for dealing with over-crowding has been to suggest to the tenants that they look out for a larger house.
- (4) The principal cases of over-crowding were two two-roomed cottages accommodating five and six persons respectively. As there were no other houses available no action was taken.

(III) Fitness of houses.

- (1) - (a) The general standard of the better-class houses is good but that of the working-class houses is, on the whole poor.
- (b) The general characters of the defects are deterioration through age, small capacity and want of through ventilation. There are also many minor defects due to disrepair.

and the more and more we will be able to do. I am very glad to have you come to the meeting and I hope you will be able to speak on the subject of the new law and the effect it will have on the people here.

(c) Many of these minor defects are due to the lack of proper management and supervision by owners and to a certain extent also to neglect on the part of tenants.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected during the year:-

- (a) Total ----- completed
- (b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts.
 - (i) By the Local Authority -- Nil
 - (ii) By Building Syndicate --- Six completed.

1. Unfit dwellinghouses.

- (1) Total number inspected.....150.
- (2) Number found unfit for human habitation. Nil
- (3) Number found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation... 12.

2 Remedy of defects without service of formal notice.

Number of houses rendered fit....6.

3 Action under Statutory Powers.

- (A). (1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.....8
- (2) Number rendered fit after formal notice...6
- (3) Number in respect of which Closing Orders became operativeNil.

- (B) (1) Number of representations made with a view to making a Closing Order.....1.
- (2) Number in respect of which Closing Order was determined the house having been rendered fit.....1.

Presented to the Council
6th April 1926.

Fredk H. Rudge.

M.O.I.



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REPORT OF M.O.I.

Year 1925.
